appeared in the Patriot dated April 6, 1992, under the caption 'Fears of rape haunt Orphans', to the effect that nightmares of mayhem, molestation and worse, haunt the girls including minor ones of the Shishu Nandan Orphanage in Dhawapanagar, South Tripura;

(b) if so, whether Government have since conducted any inquiry and obtained a report from the Tripura Government or otherwise about the reported atrocities on orphan girls, especially minor girls between 16 to 18 years; and if so, the details of such report; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to prevent such atrocities on orphan girls, including minor ones at the hands of rowdies in the country in general and Tripura in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The State Government have reported that an orphanage by the name of Dhwajanagar Shishunandan functioning in Udaipur Sub-Division is managed by local Notified Area Authority with financial assistance from the State Government. An incident of suicide of a girl inmate of this orphanage was reported in early 1990. Postmortem examination revealed that she was pregnant. No other incident of rape or pregnancy was reported. The State Government has taken measures to ensure better protection to girl inmates. Girl inmates have been segragated by bamboo wall with separate accommodation, kitchen and entry gate. A night guard has also been provided to ensure their security. Besides, the State Govt. have also undertaken an exercise to reorganise the destitute children's homes in the State with a view to have separate homes for boys and girls respectively.

There are also two Central Acts which provide for licensing of institutions for women and childrens and for supervision and control of orphanage home viz, (i) The Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1956 and (ii) "The Orphanages and other Charitable Homes (Supervision & Control) Act, 1960" which can be enforced by a State Government.

Under-trails in the country

955. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study to find out the cases of the under-trials in the country pending from over three months, six months and above at the end of 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; indicating the percentage of under trial cases pending for over three and six months and above disposed of from the backlog during 1991 and the number of cases that were added during 1991;

(c) whether considering long wait for justice and the period of their detention which, in most of the cases, happens to be more than the sentence awarded, some measures are being contemplated by Government to remedy the situation; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) The Central Government have not made any specific study of the cases of under-trial prisoners in the country. "Prisons" being a State subject it is primarily for the State Governments to review the position of the under-trials in jails vis-a-vis the judicial system.

Fire in jhuggis of Jahangirpur, Delhi

956. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major fire broke out in Jehangirpuri, Delhi on the 3rd April, 1992 and damaged several jhuggis and also caused considerable loss to the lives and property;

(b) if so, whether Government have since investigated into the cause of the fire;